

## THE MONTH.

THE Tithe Bill passed its second reading, after a satisfactory debate, by a majority of 125. The speeches of Sir Walter Barttelot, Mr. Raikes, Mr. Heneage, and Mr. Sydney Gedge, among others, were welcome and effective. Mr. Jeffreys said that "there were few gentlemen in the whole of England who would be willing to enrich themselves at the cost of the Church"; and the attitude of the agricultural representatives, as a whole, is encouraging to the Government.

Certain "facts" advanced by Mr. Osborne Morgan have been shown in their true light by the Bishop of St. Asaph in the *Times*. For instance, the Bishop says :

Mr. Morgan stated that "the Welsh farmers had objected all along not to the payment, but to the application, of the money." I quoted the fact that the lay impropiators and the schools and colleges, who between them hold a very considerable portion of the tithe in Wales, had experienced as great a difficulty in securing the payment of their tithes as the clergy had. Mr. Morgan does not question this fact, but falls back for a justification of his misstatement upon the plea that "it has been over and over again repeated in Wales." Those who know the Welsh press can justly estimate the value of this plea.

The New Code has been received with general cheerfulness. It certainly is a great improvement.

The Bishop of St. Albans' resignation has been gazetted. — We record with regret the death of the Bishop of Dover.

The clergy of Sheffield Rural Deanery have made their presentation to Archdeacon Blakeney, on the completion of his thirty years of ministry in Sheffield. Testimony was borne with marked unanimity to the great value of Dr. Blakeney's work. Other presentations to the reverend Vicar are to be made by Lay Committees.

In an article on Parochial Work the *Guardian* says :

On the whole . . . the signs of the times point to considerable efficiency and energy in the parochial work of the Church. . . . But it will be noticed that what we have said applies chiefly to towns, and that of the state of the country parishes it would be rash to say that equally satisfactory evidence was forthcoming. Of course, there are many country parishes in which admirable work is being done with the best results, and in the face of great discouragements and difficulties. But we question whether it can be said of the country districts, as a whole, that they present the same tokens of vigorous Church teaching and quickened interest that are afforded by the towns.

In St. Paul's Cathedral the Bishop of London, it is stated, took upon himself the duty of preaching the mid-day sermons all through Holy Week, including the addresses at the three hours' service upon Good Friday.

The Dean of Peterborough, a divine of the highest rank, has declined the See of Bangor. The *Record* says :

The Dean's refusal is based upon grounds which do him honour. Dr. Perowne, although seventeen years ago intimately acquainted with the diocese, and with the vernacular, has felt that his appointment might entail a good deal of criticism from those clergy who have raised the cry of "Wales for the Welsh." Rather than enter upon the See under these circumstances he has elected to stand aside.